



c.1982 Built Heritage Inventory

## 550 LaHave Street

While looking odd compared to most heritage architectural styles, unique is perhaps a better word for this house which once existed along the east side of south LaHave Street. The original core home was built by James Grinton, a Scotsman who arrived in Nova Scotia in 1819, living in Springfield, Annapolis County, before coming to Bridgewater. While it's known he had a house built on this site by 1847, it's likely it was built a few years prior, circa 1840. Grinton was said have a "mercantile" business here. Unfortunately, the home was extensively remodelled in 1904, obliterating almost all exterior clues as to the homes age.

It was remodelled; it seems, in a peculiar style. However, this was a popular layout for home-business combinations at the turn of the twentieth century. The building now housing Vogue Optical sill has a visible second floor balcony, as did the building now housing Rofihe's. This seems to draw its inspiration from the Renaissance Revival – or more accurately, the second phase of the Italianate fad, especially its *palace* substyle. Modelled after great Italian urban palaces of the renaissance, it was in style with merchants. From this came the home's boxy appearance, the second floor arcade, and the wide hipped roof meeting at a flat top. The second floor arcade is the key

feature in this building, and was meant to draw the eye upwards, away from the plane, simple front door. It contained not only a fine balustrade of turned posts, but also intricate treillage along the top, supported by fretwork ornamental brackets. Also worth noting are the brick chimney with evident Victorian corbels, and the little ripples under the prominent eaves. These dentils drew more from the Italianate *villa* substyle, and were meant to appear as the extensions of the rafters. Generally, they evolved to ornamental brackets, however here the original intent is preserved.

This home was removed between 1985 and 1996, from its location, presumably due to the Superstore development. Bridgewater lost a unique, eye-catching home.